

## BRITISH MODEL FLYING ASSOCIATION SOUTH EAST

### MINUTES OF ORDINARY GENERAL MEETING HELD 26TH MAY 2010

PRESENT : KEITH MILLER – VICE CHAIRMAN, TREASURER, COUNCIL DELEGATE, EDUCATION COORDINATOR (TONBRIDGE RADIO FLYERS)

STEVE BROWN : SECRETARY (T.W.R.C.M.)

A.ELLIOTT (E.S.S.A.), J. PHILLIPS (E.S.S.A.), T. BRADLEY (SURREY RADIO CONTROL CLUB),

G. STURDY (STANSTED MFC), R MARPLES (ERFC)

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE WERE RECEIVED BY BOB CUTTER, BOB HART, JOHN RICHARDSON, DAVID LAMBERT.

2 Minutes of previous meeting on January 27th 2010 were read, approved and accepted.

#### 3 Matters Arising:

Keith Miller confirmed the date for the Towner Trophy, to be held at Ashurst on 26th September 2010. Allen Elliott reported that there had been a good response for the The North Chailey XC event to be held on Sunday 15th August at 9.00am for 9.30am start. There will be signposts at the car park entrance. So far, there have been plenty of entries and much interest. The trophies have also been prepared in readiness.

Keith Miller reported that the Tonbridge Club had talked to Gatwick Air Traffic Control regarding height concerns over full size aircraft making their approach to the airport. Gatwick A.T.C. stated that aircraft altitude would be at a minimum of 2,500 feet over the Tonbridge Club area and were not concerned at all about model flying there.

John Phillips enquired about the need for competitions to be included on the Long Man License. Keith Miller confirmed that these had never been confirmed on the licence but competitions had been run without any problems since the instigation of the arrangement, so it was suggested that E.S.S.A. should carry on as they have done in the past.

Keith Miller reported that there had been no more news on the RAFA Shield. He also mentioned that so far, he has had no volunteers to man the proposed B.M.F.A. stand at the Southern Model Air Show in September and reminded the meeting that any volunteers would receive free entry to the show and also a mileage allowance for their car expenses.

Finally, it was noted that the B.M.F.A. South East Club list included in error, the Flambirds Model Flying Association, in Essex. B.M.F.A. Head Office have been asked to correct this.

#### 4 Officers Reports:

Chairman – nothing to report

Vice Chairman – report attached

Secretary – report attached

Treasurer – report attached

P.R.O. – nothing to report

Council Delegate – report attached

Ed. Co-ordinator – report attached

#### 5 South East Area Events:

Keith Miller reported that preparations for the Scale Day at the Hastings Field were in hand by Bob Hart, (11th July) and the Crawley Indoor Event had already been booked for next February.

## 6 Areas Council Agenda:

In the absence of various Area Officials, there was no discussion on this item, but also see Item 7.

## 7 Any Other Business:

Terry Bradley referred to the Area Council Agenda in the current B.M.F.A. Club Bulletin and asked if two representatives in Cornwall is considered to be a fair representation for the number of Clubs in that area, compared with the Home Counties.

John Phillips mentioned that E.S.S.A. were having problems with the National Trust regarding usage of the Crowlink Site.

Roger Marples enquired if the B.M.F.A. could help with expenses relating to flying site planning expenses and Keith Miller said that the Area might be able to assist, but only on a loan basis and would need to consult with Head Office.

## 8 Date of Next Meeting:

Arranged to be held at the Angel Centre on Wednesday 22nd September 2010, commencing at 8.00pm.

The Vice Chairman closed the Meeting at 9.07pm.

## **Vice Chairman's Report to South East Area meeting on May 26th 2010**

I will begin with something I am sure the Chairman would have commented on if he was here and that is our annual Crawley Indoor meeting which took place on February 7th. There was some trauma a week or so before the date, due to Crawley Borough Council informing us that an error in their office had resulted in a double booking on the same date for ourselves and a table tennis Championship. In the end the only way this could be resolved was for a sharing of the main sports hall and luckily we were able to secure two thirds of the space available with netting separating the two areas.

Luckily, the reduced area available did not seem to be too restricting from our point of view and I did not hear of any complaints from our people, in fact everyone seemed to enjoy the meeting. Naturally, Crawley Council were duty bound to reduce the hire fee and in fact this was approximately 50% of what it would have been for the whole hall and even with a reduced entry fee this produced a small surplus.

## **Treasurer's Report to South East Area meeting on May 26th 2010**

Since the last Area meeting on 27th January, there have been the following movements on our bank accounts:

### Income

|                         |          |
|-------------------------|----------|
| Crawley Indoor Receipts | £ 589.20 |
| Area Support            | 1747.55  |

### Payments

|  |          |
|--|----------|
| Conservators of Ashdown Forest (licence) | £ 367.00 |
| Room Hire                                | 22.00    |
| Crawley BC                               | 528.00   |

|                                 |       |
|---------------------------------|-------|
| SEADOG expenses (January issue) | 42.57 |
| “ “ (May issue)                 | 71.28 |

Balances of our accounts as at close of business 25.5.10 were as follows:-

|                 |            |
|-----------------|------------|
| Current Account | £1161.94Cr |
| Deposit Account | £ 413.25   |

### **Council Delegate's Report to South East Area meeting on May 26th 2010**

I attended the Areas Council meeting in Leicester on January 30th.

There was some discussion regarding the operation of Area Chief Examiners outside their own Areas and it was proposed and carried unanimously that ACE's may only operate in this way as ordinary club Examiners unless prior agreement has been obtained from the ACE of the other Area. This will take effect from April 2010.

There was also discussion as to whether an 'A' certificate should be passed before a 'B' certificate is taken. It was agreed that this should be the case and a proposal will be put to Full Council by the Achievement Scheme Review Council.

A Constitution for the Achievement Scheme Review Committee is in preparation and will be put forward to the next Areas Council meeting.

A new model has been added to the BMFA catalogue. This is the "Sky Dart", an electric R/C model designed to fly both indoors and outdoors and is aimed primarily at schools and other youth and engineering groups rather than individuals.

An interesting issue came to light recently regarding insurance cover for event organisers. A member's individual insurance does not cover one for organising anything and to invoke the organiser's insurance, the event must be organised either through an Area or affiliated club or specialist body. This may be a relevant point for those organising the many F/F and R/C indoor events all over the country.

The Flight Challenge will not be held at Duxford this year and the Royal Navy is no longer providing sponsorship as the funding is no longer available. The event will therefore be postponed until the Autumn and will be held at RAF Finningley (near Doncaster).

It was reported that the club Chairman's conference held recently was successful with some 70 clubs represented.

No report was submitted by the Flying Site Advisor and there will possibly be a change to this job being held by a permanent staff member.

Our insurers Perkins Slade are celebrating their 40th year (20 with BMFA) and will possibly donate a trophy to commemorate this.

A new award is on the cards for this year – "Pilot of the Year" or possibly "Flyer of the Year". Nominations are requested before August this year when the Awards Committee meets – there will be an announcement in BMFA News.

The 2010 Member's Handbook is complete and should be distributed with the next BMFA News.

I requested 3 Any Other Business items for this meeting, the first being mainly concerned with the late David Boddington's column in the May 2010 issue of R/C Model Flyer. This was an indictment launched at the BMFA for (1) not yet having set up a museum/archive and national flying site and (2) its reluctance to organise World Championship and other international events.

I was astounded to find that only one of the people present had seen the article. The Chairman had not let me circulate copies of the article and the wording of my AOB items and as a result there was very little reaction but those that did say something made it fairly clear that there was little support for spending good money on such things as a museum/ archive when this could be better spent on more urgent things. The Competition Secretary, who was particularly vocal in this respect, also said that we had in fact organised several international events in the UK in recent years, but there is always a problem with flying sites and finance.

My second AOB item was to enquire what had happened to the "regular" articles on the archives which I thought had been promised for BMFA News. Only two short mentions appeared in June and August last year, but since then nothing. The Archivist was not at the meeting, but I had gathered from her by phone prior to the meeting that she had only promised regular reports to Council. I opined that it was impractical to advertise for exhibits if we had nowhere to put them, and thought that it was essential that funding for premises to accommodate exhibits be arranged ASAP. Any major developments should be announced and some mention should be made regularly in BMFA News to keep the subject in front of members to avoid the binning of valuable items. The reaction to all this was rather negative but we live in hope!

My last AOB item was in respect of obituaries, which it was recently announced would no longer be published in BMFA News. I felt that we should still print those of prominent aeromodellers with just a list of names of other people who have died, but with fuller information on the website. This was duly noted by Keith Lomax on behalf of the BMFA News publishers for consideration.

### **Education Co-ordinator's Report to South East Area meeting on 26.5.10**

As usual, in conjunction with London Area, I assisted in the organisation and running of the Dartford Girls Grammar School annual Science Fair. This year in March, it involved three days attendance but in addition we were requested to visit beforehand two of the other Dartford schools taking part in the Fair to give them some prior instruction in the event we were running.

In April I received a phone call from our Chairman in connection with a Youth Aviation Education conference to be held at Brooklands. Apparently no one from Leicester office could attend, so could I do the necessary? Luckily I was able to re-schedule other arrangements for the day and agreed to go.

I had previously attended a similar conference a few years ago at the same venue and the mixture this time was very similar with the same groups taking part with one or two new ones added. As BMFA was only allotted a 10 minutes slot for their contribution, it was only possible to give a brief outline of what we do. This applied similarly to the other organisations and although there was opportunity to mingle with the other delegates at lunch, it is not thought that much of value came out of the exercise.